## JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:

SC Court of Appeals, Seat 8

1. NAME:

Mr. Thomas E. Huff

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:** 

P.O. Box 11629

Columbia, SC 29211

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 

(office): (803)-734-1541

2. Date of Birth:

1949

Place of Birth:

Augusta, GA

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

- 5. Family Status: Married on May 5, 1974, to Patricia Dale Tucker. Never divorced; one child.
- 6. Have you served in the military? No
- 7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
  - (a) University of South Carolina-Aiken 1967-69, Associate Degree-Science;
  - (b) Augusta State University1969-71, Bachelor of Business Administration;
  - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law 1972-75, JD.
- 8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state. South Carolina 1976 (3)
- 9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
  - (a) USC-Aiken Yearbook Business Manager, 1968-69
  - (b) Augusta College Jaycees, Vice President, 1970-71
- Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
   Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

## Conference/CLE Name

Date(s)

(a) Annual Judicial Conference:

8/06; 8/07; 8/08; 8/09; 8/10;

**EXHIBIT** 

VB

(b) Workers Compensation CLE:

10/10; 8/09;

(c) SC association for Justice Annual Convention:

0,00,

(d) NC/SC Appellate Judges Conference:

8/07.

- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? Yes
  - (a) I have lectured at SC Bar CLE Programs covering the topics of appellate practice in criminal and civil appeals and matters concerning appeals from summary courts.
  - (b) I participated as a faculty member for a week long program of training for U.S. Attorneys at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia. The course was entitled Appellate Advocacy, course number 01-01AA1.
- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None
- 13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
  - (a) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of South Carolina in 1976;
  - (b) Also admitted to practice before the Federal District Court in 1978.
- 14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.

1976-1996: I started a solo law practice with an emphasis in domestic law, workers compensation, and civil/tort/personal injury matters. In 1990 I was selected by Aiken Electric Cooperative to serve as their corporate counsel. I represented them in the Circuit Court and Supreme Court until I was elected to the Court of Appeals.

- 15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, <u>Best Lawyers</u>, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super <u>Lawyers</u>, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any. Martindale-Hubbell: BV rating
- 22. Have you ever held judicial office? Yes

South Carolina Court of Appeals, elected February 1996. This court has statewide jurisdiction over all courts, agencies, commissions and administrative law courts. It is an error correction court. We hear all matters other than those exclusively reserved to the Supreme Court.

- 23. If the answer to question 22 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
  - (a) State v. Brayboy, 387 S.C. 174, 691 S.E.2d 482 (Ct. App. 2010);
  - (b) <u>State v. Ravenell</u>, 387 S.C. 449, 692 S.E.2d 554 (Ct. App. 2010);
  - (c) State v. Hill, Op. No. 4856 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed July 27, 2011) (Shearouse Adv. Sh. No. 25 at 61); 2011 WL 3273544;
  - (d) Mozingo & Wallace Architects, LLP v. Patricia Grand, 379 S.C. 478, 666 S.E. 2d 267 (Ct. App. 2008), cert. denied (June 6, 2009);
  - (e) State v. Bryant, 390 S.C. 638, 740 S.E.2d 344 (Ct. App. 2011).

- 24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? Yes. I was elected to the SC House of Representatives in 1978. I served from 1978 to 1996. I timely filed all required reports and disclosures.
- 25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor. None
- 26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? I ran for the Court of Appeals in 1993 but lost to Judge Carol Conner by seven votes.
- 27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? No
- 28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No
- 29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None
- 31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? NO
- 32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No
- 33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? A state lien was filed in error in the 1980's and was immediately removed when it was brought to their attention that they had filed it against the wrong person. Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? No Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No
- 34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law? No
- 36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? No If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No
- 37. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? No
- 38. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No

- 39. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None
- 40. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None
- 41. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. None
- 42. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None
- 43. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? NO Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? NO
- 44. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? NO. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? NO
- 45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? NO
- 46. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? NO
- 47. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
  - (a) South Carolina Bar:
  - (b) Aiken County Bar.
- 48. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere. None
- 49. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

For the past 6+ years I have served as a Sunday school teacher in my church. It has been an experience that has constantly refreshed me and given me immeasurable perspective to deal with the stresses of life and my service on the court.

## 50. References:

- (a) Dr. Mark Harris Charlotte First Baptist Church 9837 Adison Gray Lane Charlotte, NC 28270 704-619-1156
- (b) Mrs. Susan Mullis, Asst. Vice President Bank of America 441 West Martintown Road North Augusta, SC 29841 803-279-0034
- (c) Mr. Clay Lee, President
  North Augusta Roofing and Construction Co., Inc.
  1211 Summerhill Rd. 29841
  803-278-3672
- (d) Dr. John Baxley III, M.D. Hope Medical Center 2604 Peach Orchard Road Suite 200 Augusta, GA 30906 706-798-4673
- (e) Mr. Rick Reed 2127 Long Trail Hopkins, SC 29061 803-776-3252

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature:

Thomas E. Huff

Date:

August 11, 2011